BASEKTBALL-YUGOSLAVIA RETURN IN TRIUMPH TO TAKE EUROPEAN CROWN

ATHENS, July 03, (Reuter) - One of the key factors in the Yugoslav victory was the taming of Lithuanian giant Arvidas Sabonis who was held to just 20 points. Sabonis fouled out in tears with five minutes remaining in the game. With two minutes remaining, the Lithuanian bench was penalized for protesting a disputed foul, and for a brief time the Lithuanian team refused to return to the court.

The highly vocal Greek crowd sided with the Lithuanians following Saturday's semifinal when Yugoslavia beat Greece 60-52.

Lithuanian guard Sarunas Marciulionis, who scored 32 points in the championship game, was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Marciulionis claimed that politics played a major role in deciding the title, saying that Yugoslavia had the green light from the start to win this tournament." and that European basketball had "reached the bottom".

Lithuanian coach Vladas Garastas said: that he believed the decision to leave the court was the right one, but that the threat of a $50,000 penalty prompted the team to return even though Sabonis had offered to pay the fine. In addition to the bench penalty, Lithuania was particularly upset at penalties by U.S. referee George Toliver against Marciulionis and Sabonis with 13 minutes remaining Yugoslavia took a 72-64 lead.

THEIR HEARTBREAKING LOSS NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ENTIRE TEAM WAS PRESENTED WITH GRAND DUKE GEDIMINAS MEDALS BY PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS (BACK TO PAGE 1)

(3) **LITHUANIA PARDONS FORMER SOVIET GENERAL.** The Lithuanian Mercy Mission on 5 July pardoned former Soviet General Ginutis Taurinskas for his participation in anti-state. Taurinskas headed the Lithuanian branch of the Soviet paramilitary organization DOSAAF and participated in activities of pro-Soviet forces in Lithuania when the Soviet Union was falling apart. When Lithuania gained independence, he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison. Pranas Kuris, head of the Supreme Court, justified the pardon saying that Taurinskas has already served two-thirds of the term and, since he suffers from ill health, it was a normal and humane act to pardon him. Opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis criticized the pardon. -- Ustina Markus, OMRI, Inc.